

**SUBJECT** Distribution of Soviet Films in Japan

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1. Soviet films are distributed in Japan through the Economic Section of the Soviet Mission (Office of the Soviet Member, Allied Council for Japan). Nikolai Ageyev\*, the deputy economic adviser of the Mission, is the responsible officer. After arranging for censorship of the films by GHQ, SCAP, Ageyev passes them directly to officials of Nisso Eigasha (Japan-Soviet Film Company) and Hokusei Shoji (North Star Trading Company) for distribution.
2. Nisso and Hokusei were organized in November 1947 for the sole purpose of distributing Soviet motion pictures, and each was allotted three of the total Soviet quota of six films per year.\*\* They are small concerns, Nisso having a payroll of ten persons and Hokusei a payroll of five. Toho, one of Japan's largest film distribution companies, was soon included in the arrangement, assisting in publicity and distribution. The president of Nisso, Mr. NAGAI, now delegates all work connected with advertising, distribution, organization and the like to Toho, which has contracted with the two original concerns for forty per cent of the gross revenue, less overhead expenses. Nisso and Hokusei retain sixty per cent.
3. Due to strict SCAP censorship, Soviet films in Japan have generally carried only mild propaganda and have not been popular with the average Japanese\*\*\* The most popular Soviet film has been "The Hump-Backed Horse," a technicolor cartoon released in Japan in March 1949. Other fairly popular motion pictures have been "Stone Flower," "Tale of Siberia," "Musical Girl of Moscow," "Glinka" and "The Sleeping Beauty."

Comment. In the Reference List of the Allied Council for Japan, published by SCAP, Nikolai Agusev is listed as deputy economic adviser of the Soviet Mission.

and the United States is allowed eighty-five films.

25X1A Comment. It is known that the rigid framework of occupation regulations has caused difficulty in the distribution of Soviet films. For this reason, it is extremely unlikely that the Soviet film organization is either distributing propaganda films covertly or engaging in intelligence collection.

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**By:**